

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): ~~Network~~ A network level admission control apparatus (~~Ⓓ~~) for a set of ~~communications~~ networks comprising a first network, not using a an IP level protocol, ~~at a "sub-IP" level (NSIP)~~ comprising border routers (~~BR3-k~~) interconnected by links associated with resources of known characteristics and managed by a first network management system (~~NMS3~~), the apparatus ~~being characterized in that it comprises comprising:~~

control means (~~CM~~) fed by said network management system (~~NMS3~~) with data representative of said links between border routers (~~BR3-k~~) of said first network and of ~~the said~~ ~~associated resources;~~ ~~and~~

wherein said control means arranged, in the event of receiving
receives a request to transfer a call via said first network (NSIP), which said call
is being associated with at least one service criterion and designates designating a second
communications network (NIP2) connected to said first network and of a different type than said
first network;

to make use of determines, using said data, to determine whether available
resources exist that satisfy the said at least one service criterion associated with said call to be
transferred; and

if so to forward said resources exist, forwards said call transfer request to a
second control apparatus (~~S2~~) connected to a second network management system (~~NMS2~~)

managing said ~~designated~~ second network; ~~(NIP2)~~, with

wherein said resources being are booked only if said resources are available satisfying so as to satisfy said at least one service criterion in each of the networks involved by servicing said call.

2. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said service criterion is selected from a group comprising at least quality of service, ability to protect/restore a link, and security.

3. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said quality of service is defined by at least one parameter selected from a group comprising at least passband, delay, losses, and jitter.

4. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein~~ some of said data specifies a mode of management for a link by said network management system ~~(NMS3)~~.

5. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said modes are selected from a group comprising at least VPN, optical VPN, and IPSec.

6. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3, characterized in that wherein~~ some of said data defines restoration links and associated resources.

7. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 3, characterized in that includes comprising:~~

memory (~~M~~), and in that which said control means (~~CM~~) are arranged to store stores received data in said memory (~~M~~) in the form of a connectivity matrix between border routers (~~BR3-k~~) of the first network (~~NSIP~~).

8. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein~~ said control means (~~CM~~) are ~~suitable for being~~ coupled to third control apparatus (~~S1~~) connected to a third network management system (~~NMS1~~) managing a third ~~communications~~ network (~~NIP1~~) connected to the ~~sub-IP~~ first network (~~NSIP~~) and of a different type, and from which said call transfer request comes.

9. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one of said second and third networks (~~NIP2, NIP1~~) uses an IP level protocol.

10. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one of said second and third networks (~~NIP2, NIP1~~) uses a protocol at sub-IP level.

11. (currently amended): ~~Network~~ A network equipment apparatus (~~S3~~) ~~suitable for being adapted to be~~ connected to a network management system (~~NMS3~~) managing a

~~communications~~ network using a protocol at sub-IP level (~~NSIP~~), the ~~equipment being~~
~~characterized in that it includes apparatus comprising:~~

at least one network level admission control apparatus (~~D~~) according to ~~any one of claims~~
claim 1 to 10.

12. (currently amended): ~~The use of the A method for~~ network level admission
control, comprising:

employing the apparatus (~~D~~) ~~and the network equipment (S3)~~ according to ~~any preceding~~
~~claim-claim 1~~ in sub-IP ~~communications~~ networks selected from a group comprising space-
division switching networks, WDM networks, TDM networks, and GMPLS networks.